



NEWSLETTER

**Pakenham Secondary
College**
1020 Princes Hwy
PAKENHAM 3810
Phone: 5945 1433

Friday 13th February 2009

Newsletter No. 1

Tuesday	17th February	Swimming Carnival
Mon–Fri	23rd–27th February	Year 7 Camps
Monday	9th March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday	10th March	Yr 8–12 School Photo's
Friday	13th March	Yr 7–10 Immunisations
Wednesday	18th March	Yr 7 School Photo's

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It has been a very positive start to 2009 with students and teachers all busy in ensuring a smooth start to the academic year. I thank all parents for their cooperation in ensuring students are wearing school uniform, and have the right textbooks.

While a smooth start to classes is imperative the school is being proactive in ensuring students are attending school and are in full uniform. I would like to remind parents that students are expected to wear plain black polish able leather shoes which can be either lace up with plain black laces or have a buckle.

School Council elections are about to take place and Nomination details are included in his Newsletter.

This is an exciting year for the College with the building program finally completed and the school implementing the first year of a four year strategic plan. I feel extremely positive about the direction in which the school is heading and hope that the year is a good one for all of those involved with the College

Ray Squires

Accident Insurance

Parents are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs, unless the injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of a Department or school council employee or volunteer. Student accident insurance policies are available from the private insurance market. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare. Any queries can be directed to JUA Underwriting Agency P/L . Website: www.jua.com.au

Loss of property

Personal property is often brought to school by students, and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Parents are reminded that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property

Swimming Sports

The swimming sports will be held at Koo Wee Rup swimming pool on Tuesday, February 17TH .It is expected that all students will attend. Details and permission forms have been mailed out earlier this year. Permission forms should be returned to the general office as soon as possible.

Bushfires

As we start the school year it would be fair to say that many of us have been touched by the impact of the bushfires around Victoria. We have a team of workers who are able to offer assistance to any student who may be adversely affected by this tragedy. Parents should not hesitate to contact the school via their child's team leader if they believe some extra support for their child may be required. If you live in any area that could be effected by fire or your child catches a school bus, please listen to ABC am 774 radio for updates.

School Council Elections 2009

What is a school council and what does it do?

All Government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council.

An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

Standing for election as a member of the school council

Encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. **All school council nominations must be in by Monday 23rd February, 2009** and school council elections must be completed by the **10th March, 2009**. **If you are interested, please contact Jackie Stewart at the General Office for a Nomination form.**

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the Office within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination For Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do

Consider standing for election to council this year

Be sure to vote in the elections.

Information on the School Start Bonus for parents of Prep and Year 7 students to be included in first 2009 newsletter.

The School Start Bonus (SSB) was introduced in 2006 to assist parents/guardians of Prep and Year 7 students to meet the start-up costs associated with commencing Primary and Secondary schooling.

Every student enrolled for the first time in Prep and Year 7 in Term 1 is eligible for the bonus. The School Start Bonus is separate from, and additional to, the Education Maintenance Allowance.

SSB is not means tested and has no connection with Centrelink.

Eligible parents/guardians do not need to make a claim.

The bonus of \$300 will be paid in the form of a cash payment voucher available from the school after the enrolment process has been completed at the end of 2008, for students commencing Prep & Year 7 in 2009.

The voucher will be made payable to the primary care giver/legal guardian listed in the student's enrolment details held by the school.

Vouchers will be redeemable at any Australia Post outlet displaying the Bank@Post sign from the 12th January 2009 upon presentation of photo identification.

Please ensure you provide the school with your full legal name to create the voucher so that it is identical with your photo identification.

If your name is incorrect on the voucher, ask your school to reissue the voucher in your correct legal name.

Your school will issue you with the School Start Bonus voucher. Information is also available on the Department of Education website at www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/financialservices.htm. Contact the Department of Education Information and Referral Service on 1800 809 834 option 6 if you require additional information.

PAKENHAM SECONDARY COLLEGE
SPORT

Swimming Carnival – Koo Wee Rup Pools – Tuesday 17th February

This is a compulsory school event all students **MUST** attend whether they are participating or not in the event. The consent form will remain the same form for the Athletics carnival in Term 2 which will be held at the Knox athletics track on Tuesday 19th May. Please ensure all forms are returned asap.

Summer sport has already begun. Congratulations to the Senior Boys Cricket team for winning their first round match against Koo Wee Rup Secondary College.

Keep an eye out on the sports notice board for up and coming sport and any information in regards to sport in 2009. Any questions regarding sports see Miss Toppi the sport Coordinator in the gym office.

Congratulations to the following for being elected house captains of Pakenham Secondary College for 2009.



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SENIOR HOUSE CAPTAINS

Lecky

Toby Arthur

Shiona Dickson

Jamieson

Josh Van Raay

Ella Coleman

Henty

Jarrold Collett

Kassie O'Loughlin

Patterson

Tom Robinson

Bridgette Van Sprang

MIDDLE HOUSE CAPTAINS

Lecky

Braiden Mcauliffe

Melissa Stanley

Jamieson

Adam Alberni

Molly Saunders

Henty

Michael Zinner

Holly Player

Patterson

Jordan Bates

Bridget O'Neill

LIBRARY NEWS

Dates to Remember

- * **Monday 16th February**
Book Club orders due back
- * **Monday 20th February** Valentine's Day Poetry
Competition Closes

BEARS & FROGS



The BEARS & FROGS program will commence in February. These sessions are directed towards year 7 & 8 students to encourage them to read widely and improve their literacy skills.

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CHANGE OF DETAILS

If you have changed any details of late, including: home address, postal address or phone etc. Please contact the General Office ASAP. **All details need to be kept updated at all times.** This is a necessity for emergency cases also shortly school reports will be posted. Your help would be greatly appreciated in this matter.

EXITING STUDENTS

If any students are exiting, please ensure that all exit forms are completed prior to leaving. These forms must be completed by a parent/guardian

Not the student. Please contact Mrs Carter in the General Office for enquires regarding this or phone
5945 1433

SECONDHAND UNIFORMS:

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If you have school uniforms that are no longer required, Welfare will gladly accept good quality, S/H uniforms as spares for use in emergency cases.

Jumpers, Trousers, Dresses & Shirts all accepted.

Thank You
Welfare

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ACCOMPLISH DRIVING SCHOOL

- . We specialize in nervous drivers
- . Patient, friendly instructors
- . New model cars (Manual & Auto)
- . Guaranteed licence first time or we pay your rebooking fee plus purchase of your licence.
- . 4 year licence for under 21

CONTACT

**ACCOMPLISH DRIVING SCHOOL ON:
8786 9068**

SPECIAL OFFER:

One lesson FREE (redeemable on your third lesson) on presentation of this advertisement.

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VCE

Mastering The VCE in 2009. These lectures are guaranteed to motivate students and help improve VCE scores.

**WHERE: University of Melbourne.
WHEN: Sun 22nd Feb, Sat 29th Feb, & Sun 1st March.**

**Any queries or application phone 96633311
Or www.tsfx.com.au**

REMINDER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

24 HOUR ABSENCE HOTLINE: 5945 1444

BLUE LIGHT DISCO

NARRE WARREN—BERWICK
BLUE LIGHT DISCO
BERWICK LEISURE CENTRE
MANUKA ROAD; BERWICK
SATURDAY 7th March

6PM—10PM
COST \$10.00

NOW for students in years 5 - 8 only.

PROOF OF AGE MAY BE REQUESTED

ANY ENQUIRIES TO NARRE WARREN POLICE
STATION ON 9705 3111



**FORTNIGHTLY CHRISTIAN
PRAYER GROUP**

**Meeting in Room A4 in the Senior School
Building at Pakenham Secondary College**

**Teachers, Parents, Students and Friends all
welcome.**

All enquires please contact

Sharon Thomas on 5941 4495

**Dates: Thurs 19th Feb; 5th March; 19th
March; 2nd April**

Time: 1.25—2.00pm

SCHOOL BOOKS REQUIRED

**ANYONE WITH THE FOLLOWING BOOK
THAT THEY NO LONGER REQUIRE
PLEASE PHONE THE FOLLOWING ;**

ENGLISH WORKBOOK BK4

**HENDERSON,HOLES-SACHAR
YR 8**

Ph: 0417 415 249

CHRISTINE

***INTERESTED IN HOSTING FOR STUDENT
EXCHANGE***

*In July 2009, students aged 15-18 will be
arriving in Australia to study at local
schools. This is a volunteer position and
can be on a short or long term basis.*

*Host families help provide these
international students about life in
Australia. If you think your family can
offer a friendly, supportive and caring
home environment, call us today.*

*Student Exchange Australia :
1300 135 331 or visit our website:
www.studentexchange.org.au*

CHISHOLM ; BERWICK CAMPUS

BUSINESS ADMIN COURSES:

If your interested in Developing your
Computer skills, Office Skills or refreshing
your computer and office skills.

Please call; Serena D'Mello on 92124606

This is for Certificate II in Business
commencing on 9.2.09